

Land and Colombia's Journey to Self-Reliance

KEY LAND ISSUES IN COLOMBIA

Grievances over land were key drivers of Colombia's nearly 50-year internal conflict. At the onset of the conflict, land distribution was highly inequitable: **less than 1% of the population owned more than 50% of the country's best land**. Since then, land ownership has become even more concentrated through displacement and illicit acquisition associated with the conflict and narcotics trade. Colombia has the **second highest rate of internal displacement in the world**, surpassed only by Syria, with 6 million people having fled their land. Currently, about **30% of Colombians are estimated to have insecure land rights**.



1960s | Civil war begins. The fighting continues for nearly 50 years, **displacing millions from their land**.

2010 | USAID launches a program to support a **robust land restitution effort** in Colombia by providing guidance on the institutional design and legal framework.

2013 | USAID launches the Land and Rural Development Program, **strengthening the capacity** of national and regional government institutions to address **land restitution, formalization, and rural development** issues.

2016 | Colombia's Congress ratifies a **comprehensive peace agreement** addressing land issues as a key part of Colombia's peace planning.

2018 | USAID is preparing to launch the **Land for Prosperity program**, a new 5-year activity that will be among the Agency's **largest and most important land programs**

1960

2000

2010

2015

2020

2000s | USAID programs begin **addressing land issues as a strategy to mitigate conflict**, support the National Consolidation Plan, and combat the narcotics trade.

2012 | USAID provides direct implementation support to the land restitution policy in targeted regions.

2011 | The Government of Colombia (GoC) passes new **law on land restitution and formalization for victims of violence** that establishes a process for land restitution as part of peacebuilding efforts, but **capacity constraints slow progress**.

2016 | The Government of Colombia and USAID launch **high-profile and ambitious massive land titling pilot** in the Ovejas region. The pilot will help shape the Government's planned national land titling campaign.

Note: gray indicates GoC context, dark blue indicates USAID activities

IMPACTS OF USAID LAND PROGRAMS (Since 2013)



Mobilized over **\$84 million** in domestic resources towards implementing land restitution rulings and public private partnerships. That translates into **\$21 dollars mobilized** from domestic sources for every \$1 USAID invested.



Supported four ethnic land restitution cases **benefiting 230+ families** and advancing **restitution of 3400+ hectares of land**.



Supported the GoC in strengthening its capacity to resolve over **62,000 land restitution cases**.



Digitized over **5 million paper land records** and helped the GoC develop a modern land administration system.



Reduced by 92% the time required for the land restitution unit to access land records across various government agencies.